

Wergaia language

Wergaia or **Werrigia** is an Aboriginal Australian language in the Wimmera region of north-Western Victoria. The Wergaia language consisted of four distinct dialects: Wudjupalug/Wotjobaluk, Djadjala/Djadjali, Buibadjali, Biwadjali.^[2] Wergaia was in turn apparently a dialect of the Wemba Wemba language, a member of the Kulinic branch of Pama–Nyungan.^[3] The Aboriginal people were known as the **Maligundidj**, which means the people belonging to the *mali* (mallee) eucalypt bushland which covers much of their territory.^[4]

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Sounds

The following is the Djadjala dialect.

	Labial	Alveolar	Retroflex	Palatal	Velar
Stop	b	d	ɖ	tʃ	ɡ
Nasal	m	n	ɳ	ɲ	ŋ
Rhotic		r	ɽ		
Lateral		l			
Approximant	w			j	

Vowels given are /a e i u/.^[5]

Notes and references

Notes

1. S17 (<https://collection.aiatsis.gov.au/austlang/language/S17>) Wergaia at the Australian Indigenous Languages Database, Australian

Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies

2. Clark 1990.

3. Dixon 2002, p. xxxvi.

	Wergaia
Region	Victoria
Ethnicity	Wergaia, Wotjobaluk
Extinct	(date missing)
Language family	Pama–Nyungan <ul style="list-style-type: none">Kulinic<ul style="list-style-type: none">Kulin<ul style="list-style-type: none">Wemba-Wemba<ul style="list-style-type: none">Wergaia
Dialects	Biwadjali Wudjupalug
Language codes	
ISO 639-3	Either: <div>weg – Wergaia</div> <div>xwt – Wotjobaluk</div>
Glottolog	<i>None</i>
AIATSIS ^[1]	S17 (https://collection.aiatsis.gov.au/austlang/language/S17)



Map of Victorian Aborigines language territories

4. Clark 1995, pp. 177–183.

5. Hercus 1969.

References

- Clark, Ian (1990). *Aboriginal Languages and Clans: An Historical Atlas of Western and Central Victoria, 1800-1900*. Monash publications in geography, No.37. ISBN 978-0-909-68541-6.
- Clark, Ian (1995). *Scars in the Landscape: A Register of Massacre Sites in Western Victoria, 1803-1859* (<https://books.google.com/books?id=N0dIhJqRqYgC&pg=PA177>). Aboriginal Studies Press. ISBN 978-0-855-75595-9.
- Dixon, Robert M. W. (2002). *Australian Languages: Their Nature and Development* (<https://books.google.com/books?id=MSqIBNJtG0AC&pg=PA2>). Cambridge University Press. ISBN 978-0-521-47378-1.

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